

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details of action initiated by the Ministry for ensuring timely supply and the results obtained during the last three years;

(c) the details of new strategy finalized to streamline the system; and

(d) the details of various construction aids asked by various States of NER including equipments and the response of the Ministry on that issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has discussed the problem with State Government officers of the N.E. Region and also taken up the issue with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the following steps have been taken to improve the position:

- (1) Contractors have been made responsible for arranging bitumen by themselves.
- (2) Ministry of Finance has been approached for waving the import duty on bitumen.
- (3) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been approached for opening a depot of Haldia Refinery at Guwahati.

(d) 20 Road Rollers, 9 Excavators cum loader, 13 Tipping Trucks costing Rs. 375 lakh have been supplied to North-Eastern State during 1998-99. Similarly, 15 Road Rollers, 6 Excavators cum loaders and 6 Mini Hot Mix plants costing Rs. 204 lakh have been supplied during 1999-2000. In addition amount of Rs. 9 crore is tentatively earmarked for purchase of machinery for North-Eastern States.

Controversies in National Highway Development Project

1825. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rs. 54,000 crore National Highway Development Project aimed at knitting together a mess of Expressways criss crossing the country has been worked out;

(b) the details of the project especially the parts of it falling in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether the project is bogged down in controversies; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Highway Development Project consists of Golden Quadrilateral connecting four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai, North-South Corridor connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari with Cochin-Salem section of National Highway-47 as spur; and East-West Corridor connecting Silchar to Saurashtra, having a total length of 13250 km. Out of this, 813 km. in Karnataka, 738 km. in Maharashtra, 1164 km. in Gujarat and 666 km. in Madhya Pradesh are to be converted into four/six lane National Highways.

(c) No, Sir.

External assistance for maintenance of NHs

1826. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount provided to the various States by the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions for construction, improvement, repairing, maintenance and widening the National Highways in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard; and

(c) whether all the grants given by all the financial institutions has been spent, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) During the last three years the following loans for projects on National Highways have been in progress against loans provided by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Co-operation (formerly known as O.E.C.F.):